Convention on Biological Diversity

2010 International Year of Biodiversity

REDD-plus and Biodiversity

Side event at UNFCCC COP 16
EU Pavilion, 30 November 2010

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Outline

- Relevant CBD COP 10 decisions
- Activities in 2011 and 2012
- Linkages between biodiversity and forest carbon

CBD PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY

GOAL 1.1

Apply the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests.

OBJECTIVE

1. Develop practical methods, guidelines, indicators and strategies to apply the ecosystem approach to forests.

GOAL 1.2

Reduce the threats and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVES

1. Prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biological diversity.
2. Mitigate the impact of pollution such as acidification and eutrophication on forest biodiversity.
3. Mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity.
4. Prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression.
5. Mitigate effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur.
6. Prevent and mitigate losses due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses.

GOAL 1.3

Protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVES

1. Restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes, including in plantations.
2. Promote forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species.
3. Ensure adequate and effective protected forest area networks.

GOAL 1.4

Promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVES

1. Promote sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity.
2. Prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources.
3. Enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity.
4. Develop effective and equitable information systems and strategies, and promote implementation of those strategies.

GOAL 1.5

Access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources.

OBJECTIVE

1. Promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

GOAL 2.1

Enhance the institutional enabling environment.

OBJECTIVES

1. Improve the understanding of the various causes of forest biological diversity losses.
2. Parties, Governments and organizations to integrate biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes.
3. Parties and Governments to develop good governance practices, review and revise and implement forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.
4. Promote forest law enforcement and address related trade.

GOAL 2.2

Address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVE

1. Mitigate the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity.

GOAL 2.3

Increase public education, participation, and awareness.

OBJECTIVE

1. Increase public support and understanding of the value of forest biological diversity and its goods and services at all levels.

GOAL 3.1

Characterize and analyse forest ecosystems and develop a general classification of forests at various scales, in order to improve the assessment of status and trends of forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVES

1. Review and adopt a harmonized global to regional forest classification system, based on harmonized and accepted forest definitions, and addressing key forest biological diversity elements.
2. Develop national forest classification systems and maps.
3. Develop, where appropriate, specific forest ecosystems surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.

GOAL 3.2

Improve knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVE

1. Advance the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators, based on key regional, subregional and national measures.

GOAL 3.3

Improve understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

OBJECTIVE

1. Conduct key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

GOAL 3.4

Improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVE

1. Enhance and improve the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biological diversity and develop associated databases as required on a global scale.

CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND BENEFIT-SHARING 1 — 2 INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENABLING ENVIRONMENT — 3 KNOWLEDGE, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

For more information, see the CBD website: www.cbd.int

Convention on Biological Diversity

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http://www.cbd.int/forest/pow.shtml

CBD Decisions on REDD

Decision IX/5 welcomes REDD and invites Parties, other Governments, and relevant international and other organizations to ensure that possible actions for REDD:

- *do not run counter to the objectives of the CBD and implementation of the forest programme of work (PoW)*
- *support implementation of the PoW, and*
- *provide benefits for forest biodiversity and indigenous and local communities.*

CBD Decisions on REDD

Decision X/33 requests the Executive Secretary to:

- Provide advice, for approval by COP 11, on relevant REDD-plus safeguards for biodiversity, based on effective consultation with Parties and their views, and with the participation of indigenous and local communities

- Identify possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD-plus to achieving the objectives of the CBD, and assess potential mechanisms to monitor impacts on biodiversity

- Collaborate on these and other requests with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the UNFCCC Secretariat, the World Bank, and the UN REDD Programme

CBD Secretariat activities on REDD in 2011 - 2012

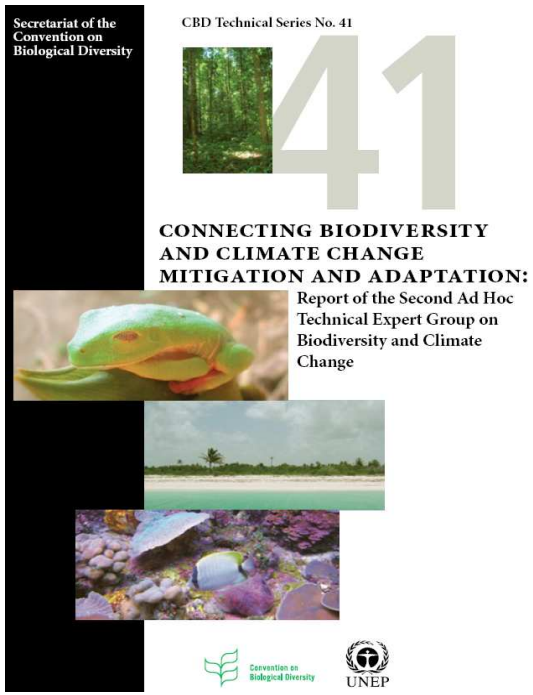
COP 10 decisions: www.cbd.int/nagoya/outcomes

- Regional consultation workshops (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean) on REDD-plus safeguards and on assessment of impacts, combined with capacity building on forest biodiversity and climate change – **first one in March 2011 (tentative)**

- Consultancy studies on safeguards and monitoring REDD-plus impacts

- Expert workshop in collaboration with UNFCCC Secretariat on enhancing coordination of capacity building efforts

Linkages between Biodiversity and Climate Change



AHTEG Report 2009*:

REDD-plus:

- potential to deliver significant co-benefits for forest biodiversity if mechanisms are designed appropriately.

- This means:
  - recognizing the contribution of diverse forests, in particular primary forests, to long-term carbon sequestration/storage;
  - Respecting rights of indigenous and local communities;
  - addressing important forest governance issues such as illegal logging and land tenure.

Further discussion about CBD and REDD perspectives: *"Recent CBD scientific findings on biodiversity and climate change - Information Note 1 for UNFCCC COP15"* (http://www.cbd.int/climate/copenhagen)

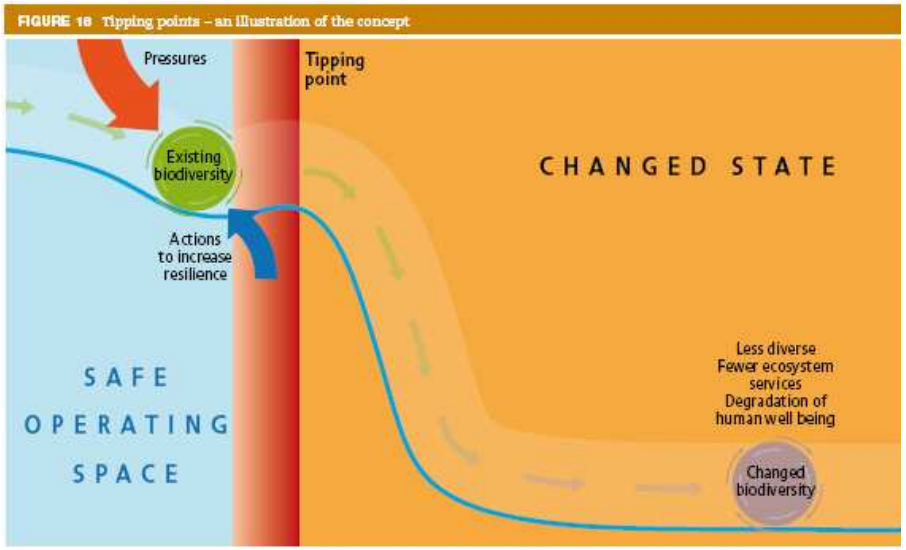
* *Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*. CBD Technical Series No. 41. www.cbt.int/ts

GBO3: Potential tipping points

Approaching several tipping points, for example:

- **dieback of large areas of Amazon forest**, due to interactions of climate change, deforestation and fires,

- **shift of many freshwater lakes** and other inland water bodies to eutrophic or algae-dominated states, caused by build-up of nutrients.

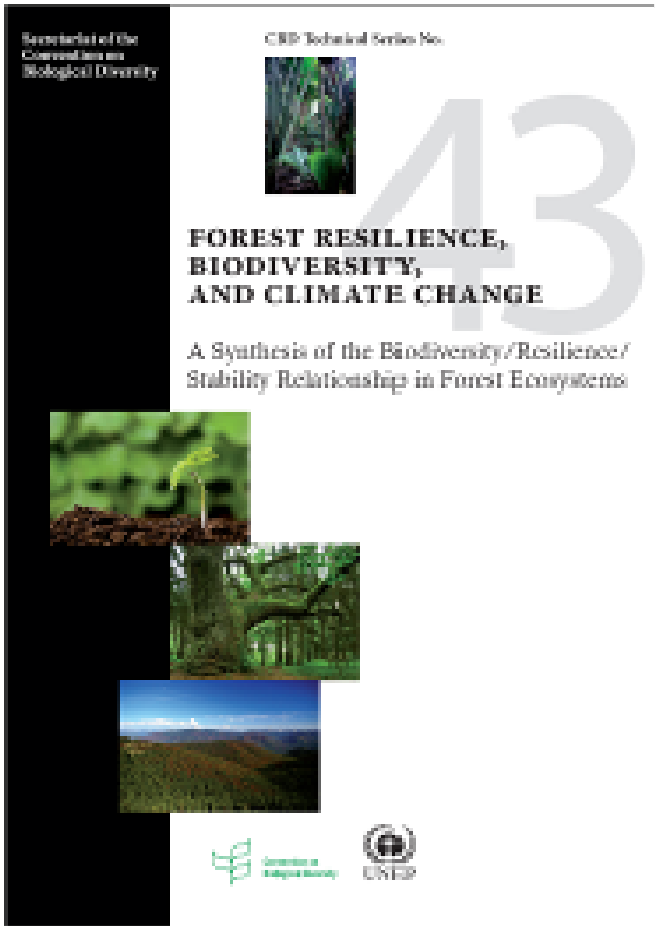


Tipping points : points at which ecosystems shift to alternative, less productive states from which it may be difficult or impossible to recover.

Links between biodiversity and forest carbon

- Synthesis of 400+ peer-reviewed articles: Forest resilience and stability depend on biodiversity, at multiple scales (Thompson et al., 2009, see also Diaz et al., 2009)

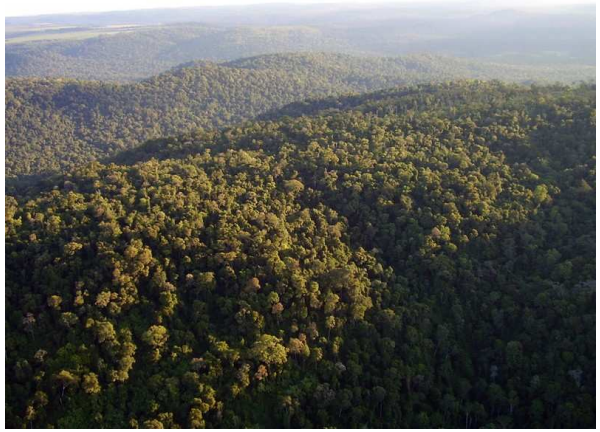
- Implications e.g. for REDD permanence: biodiversity essential for stability/carbon permanence, and thus an enabling condition for SFM and REDD-plus



Forest Resilience and Biodiversity: Key Findings

- Biodiversity supports forest ecosystem resilience and thus the long-term stability of the forest carbon stock. Primary forests and other naturally regenerated forests are generally more resilient (and stable, resistant, and adaptive) than planted forests.

- Increasing the biodiversity in planted and semi-natural forests will have a positive effect on their resilience capacity and often on their productivity (including carbon storage).

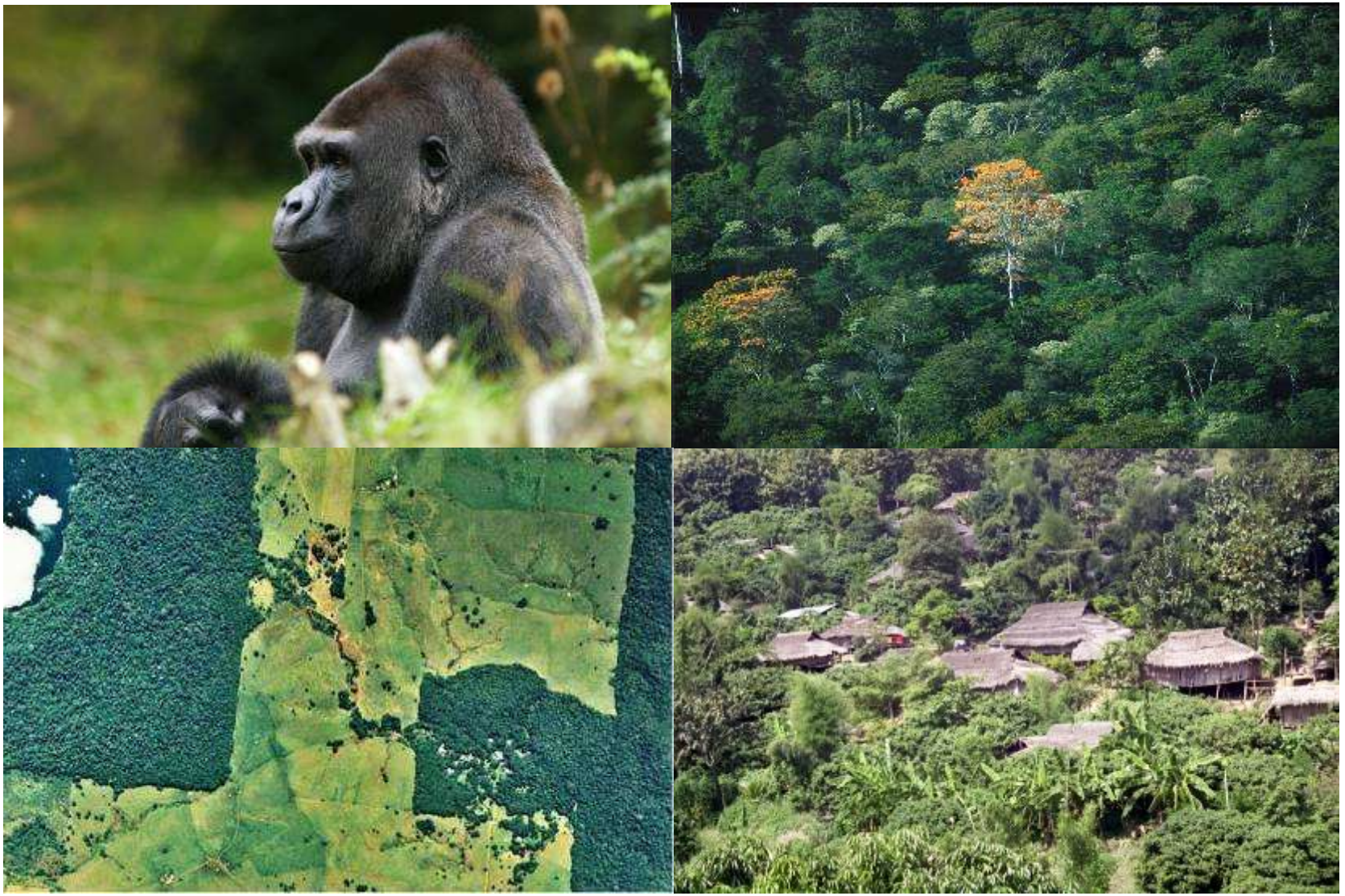


Managing forests to improve stability and resilience

- Diverse systems can be more productive, stable, and produce more goods and services than simple ecosystems (e.g., monotypic plantations)
- Re-forest by using native species and by using natural forests as models
- Maintain landscape connectivity
- Manage to maintain genetic diversity (e.g., reduce selective harvest of 'best' trees, and re-plant several seed stocks)
- Protect species at the edges of their ranges
- Reduce invasive species

(CBD Technical Series 43, www.cbd.int/ts, cf. also IUCN/ITTO Guidelines for Biodiversity in Tropical Production Forests)

There is no “one-size fits all” model



Global Expert Workshop on REDD Biodiversity Benefits

Nairobi, 20-23 September 2010

Report, presentations, and background documents available at: www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWREDD-01

Country presentations from:

Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo , Ecuador, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Tanzania, Viet Nam

Global Expert Workshop on REDD Biodiversity Benefits

Key findings include:

- If REDD-plus is successful, it will have **significant and unprecedented benefits for biodiversity**. CBD constituency should support the efforts of UNFCCC to reach agreement on a well designed mechanism.
- Both protection of biodiversity and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities are **necessary for the success of REDD-plus**.
- **Safeguards,** if designed and implemented appropriately, will reduce possible risks and enhance the potential benefits of REDD-plus.
- There is a need to **monitor co-benefits** of REDD.

Global Expert Workshop on REDD Biodiversity Benefits

Key findings include:

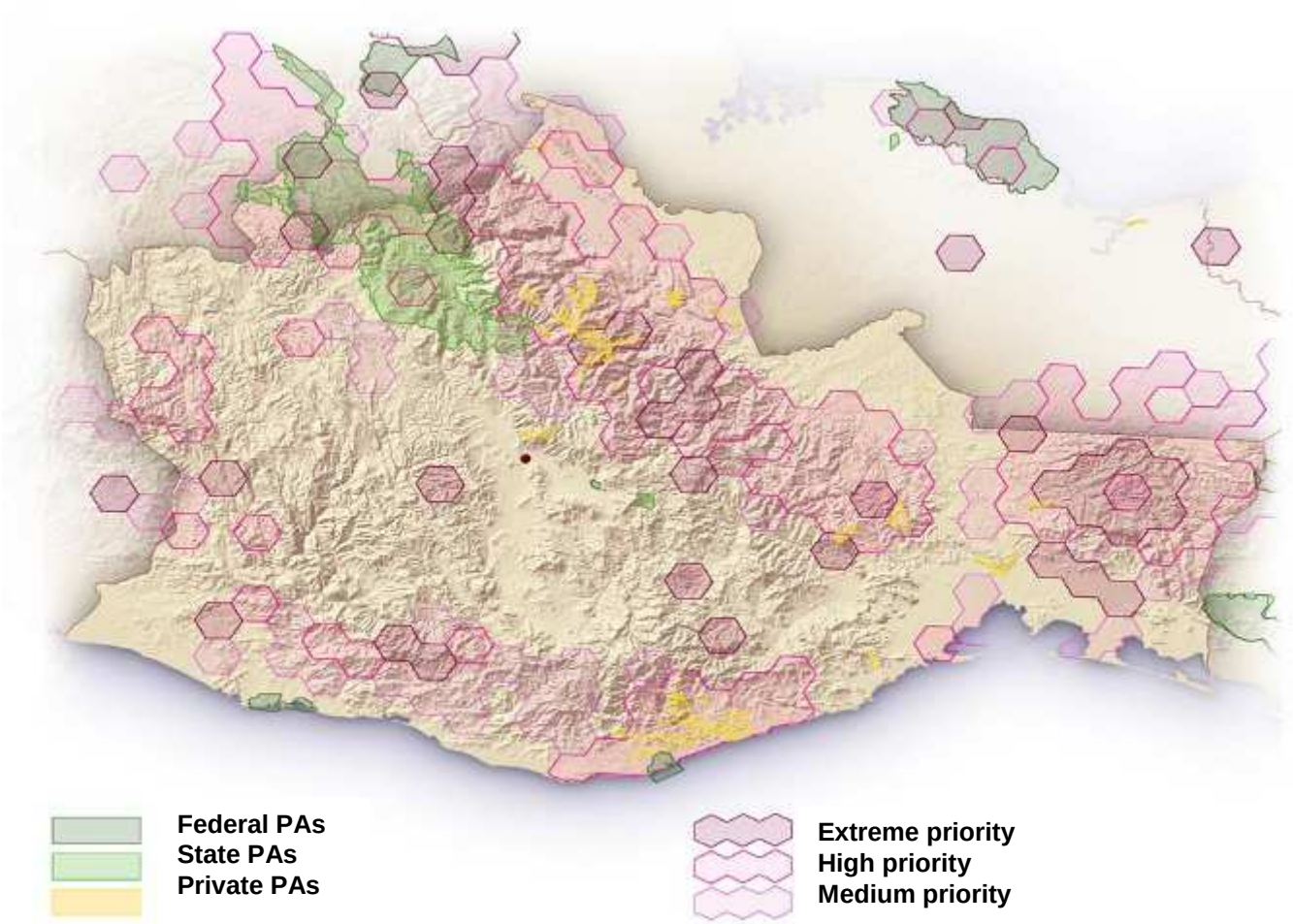
- *At this stage, the biggest risk to biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities from REDD-plus is that a well-designed REDD-plus mechanism is not agreed upon and successfully implemented;*
- Other specific risks for biodiversity include: the conversion of natural forests to plantations and other land uses of low biodiversity value and low resilience;
- Introduction of growing of biofuel crops and invasive alien species; displacement of deforestation and forest degradation to areas of lower carbon value and high biodiversity value;
- Increased pressure on non-forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value;
- Afforestation in areas of high biodiversity value.

Global Expert Workshop on REDD Biodiversity Benefits

Key findings include:

- National governments play a key role in ensuring multiple benefits through the implementation of REDD-plus.
- National plans and national approaches benefit from the integration of climate change, biodiversity, and development objectives and strategies.
- This requires effective cross-sectoral coordination and harmonization of relevant policies and laws (agriculture, energy, environment, forests, biodiversity, and others), and integrated land use planning at the national scale.

Tools for SFM/REDD-plus biodiversity benefits



Protected area/biodiversity priorities in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, as part of the national "Spaces and Species" assessment under the CBD programme of work on protected areas. The assessment can help to identify REDD areas of high biodiversity which are under threat, as well as priority areas for restoration.

Similar national ecological gap analyses have been carried out under the auspices of the CBD in over 40 developing countries.

Summary

- **Biodiversity** underpins and determines forest resilience, ecosystem services, and forest productivity, and is an enabling condition for SFM and for REDD-plus

- Achieving **multiple benefits** through REDD-plus is feasible *if* basic Do's and Don'ts (safeguards) are observed; key knowledge gaps are closed; and planning and implementation tools are improved and widely accessible

- **Tools** to enhance biodiversity benefits are available and ready to use for REDD project development, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring; capacity varies between countries and regions

- **CBD guidance** in Technical Series 41 and 43, and REDD Biodiversity Workshop, Nairobi, 20-23 September 2010; consultation on biodiversity safeguards in 2011

- **Moving target:** relevant guidance, tools, and methods (including definitions) exist and are being refined and improved. CBD and UN REDD Programme and other partners continue to work on this issue. News in bi-monthly *REDD&Biodiversity e-Newsletter* (www.cbd.int/forest)

***thank you*!**
***merci*!**
¡*gracias*!

www.cbd.int/2010

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